

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

A method of preventing an unauthorized use of a virtual medium that replaces a physical medium, such as a computer stored virtual compact disc (CD) image file utilizing a virtual medium program, such as a virtual CD program, through which the virtual CD image file is read in a reproducible state. An identification of a computer is maintained by the virtual CD program when executing the virtual CD program. The maintained identification is stored in a downloaded virtual CD image file and the maintained identification is compared with the identification in the downloaded virtual CD image file upon being selected to be used, thereby controlling unauthorized use of the downloaded authorized virtual CD image file on another computer. For example, reproduction of a downloaded authorized virtual CD image file through the virtual CD program is interrupted if the two identifications do not match.